

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated 1 April 2003, the applicant requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-23 are pending in the application, and are rejected. Claims 1, 2, 9, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22 will be amended and new claims 24-25 will be added upon entry of the present amendment. No new matter has been entered.

Telephone interviews

The applicant again thanks Examiners Alphonse and Saras for the telephone interviews granted on Monday, 3 March 2003, and Wednesday, 12 March 2003, between themselves and the applicant's representative Mr. Mates (Reg. No. 35,271). The substance of the response filed on 17 March 2003 was discussed during the interviews. The applicant spoke with Examiner Saras on Tuesday and Wednesday, 11-12 March 2003, regarding the substance of the response filed on 17 March 2003.

Amended Claims

Dependent claims 2, 14, 19, 21, and 22 will be amended to provide a proper antecedent basis, and are not being amended in response to the rejections. These are not narrowing amendments.

New Claims

The new claims 24-25 are dependent on pending claims, and do not include new matter.

Nishikawa

The Office Action has applied Nishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,604) in the rejections, but Nishikawa does not appear to be of record. The applicant requests that the Examiner make this reference of record, by including it on a Form 892 with the Examiner's next Office Action.



Rejection of Claims Under §102

Claims 1-6, 9-15 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,604). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Amended claim 1 now recites an apparatus comprising, among other elements, a first repair router having internal routing circuitry to route any of the plurality of non-least significant bits of the first repair router input data bus to the least significant bit of the memory device input data bus and to discard the least significant bit of the first repair router input data bus.

Nishikawa relates to an apparatus for reading and writing data including a rearranging circuit that rearranges bits of data having different significances when a region of a memory circuit has a defective portion. None of the bits in Nishikawa are discarded. Nishikawa therefore does not show discarding the least significant bit as is recited in amended claim 1.

The applicant respectfully submits that Nishikawa does not show all of the elements recited in claim 1, and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1, and recite further limitations with respect to claim 1. For reasons analogous to those stated above, and the recitations in the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that Nishikawa does not show all of the elements recited in claims 2-6, and that claims 2-6 are in condition for allowance.

Amended claims 9, 15, and 20 recite elements similar to those recited in claim 1. Claims 10-14 are dependent on claim 9, and recite further limitations with respect to claim 9. For reasons analogous to those stated above, and the recitations in the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that Nishikawa does not show all of the elements recited in claims 9-15 and 20, and that claims 9-15 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under §103

Claims 7-8, 16-19, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa in view of Kondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,574). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 7-8 are dependent on claim 1, and recite further limitations with respect to claim 1. Claims 16-19 are dependent on claim 15, and recite further limitations with respect to claim

15. Claims 21-23 are dependent on claim 20, and recite further limitations with respect to claim 20.

As discussed above, Nishikawa does not show all of the elements recited in amended claims 1, 15, and 20. Kondo relates to an interface for a thin display, but does not supply the elements missing in Nishikawa. For reasons analogous to those stated above, and the recitations in the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Nishikawa and Kondo does not show all of the elements recited in claims 7-8, 16-19, and 21-23, and that claims 7-8, 16-19, and 21-23 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney at 612-373-6973 to discuss any questions which may remain with respect to the present application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

SAMSON X. HUANG

By his Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612-373-6973

Date 18 JUNE 2003

By

Robert E. Mates
Reg. No. 35,271

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 18 day of June, 2003.

Kacia Lee
Name

Kacia Lee
Signature